



The National FFA Convention

If you have not attended the National FFA Convention-You are missing out! The National FFA Convention is so much fun! It is not only located in the beautiful Louisville, Kentucky, but it is a week full of amazing experiences that



include: music concerts, FFA dances, shopping, museums,

entertainment shows, cool restaurants, meeting amazing people, FFA competitions, great speakers and conferences, and seeing the FFA National Officers. All of this is just a small taste of what you might encounter and experience at the National FFA Convention.

When I was a junior in High School, I was able to go to the National FFA Convention and compete at the National level in the Job Interview Event. Flying all the way from a small town in North Idaho to the big city of Louisville, Kentucky-was the farthest I have ever traveled away from home. I remember flying over the beautiful state of Kentucky and just thinking Wow, this is an awesome place! The National FFA Convention was huge! I never realized how many FFA Members there were in the nation, until I walked around the convention center and witnessed thousands of FFA Members forming what looked like a “sea” of blue and gold FFA official jackets. It was so incredible. I met so many wonderful FFA members and made some great friends with students across the United States. My competition in the Job Interview Event was so much fun. Competing in an event with FFA members from around the entire Nation was just an amazing experience-one I will never forget. While I was at the Convention, my FFA Chapter went out to eat at some really cool restaurants, we visited museums, we went to many FFA

dances, we went to the Kentucky derby, the Louisville Bat Factory, and we spent a lot of money on shopping and getting souvenirs. We even went to the Six Flags theme park, which was very close to the National FFA Convention Center. We all had such a great time visiting and seeing all the fantastic sights Louisville had to offer.

The National FFA Convention is an incredible experience for every FFA Member that has the privilege to go! If you ever have the chance or opportunity to attend the National FFA Convention, I suggest you take it, because I guarantee you will have such an awesome time! You’ll meet new friends, build wonderful relationships, travel to a new and exciting place, visit museums, go to concerts and dances, and most importantly--you’ll have tons of fun!

The National FFA Convention is a blast!!!

-Katie L. Jenkins, State Secretary

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FFA- 75 AND LOOKING GOOD!



Dear FFA Friends and Members,

It's hard to believe, but FFA was only 35 years old when I was president of the Fairmount Chapter. Time, though, has certainly not erased nor diminished the memories of the wonderful experiences I had and the lessons I learned in the FFA.

In addition to learning about the business of farming, I developed a love for our environment and its preservation. Many of the skills I use today were honed during my FFA days; management, planning and public speaking to name a few.

My fondest memories, however, are of the people...the good times we shared...the laughs...the hard work... the friendships we built that last to this day.

Thanks for everything FFA. Here's to the next 75 years.

Sincerely,

Jim Davis
Jim Davis

- <http://www.ffa.org/convention/index.html>

A Word from Our President

Dear FFA members,

As I am writing this to you my luggage is stranded somewhere between Dallas, Texas and Salt Lake City, Utah. This minor inconvenience comes nowhere close to denting the joy and excitement I bring home from the National FFA Convention. My fellow officers and I returned home last night after a week of busy delegate work at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

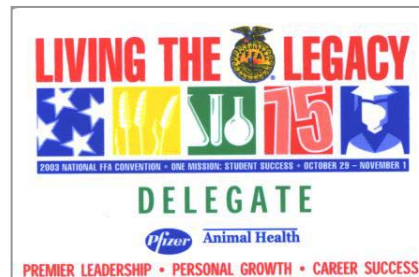
Our trip started out with a training session to help the delegates understand the procedures we would use in the coming week. The delegate process takes recommendations sent in by state associations and delivers them to committees which debate the issues until everyone is blue in the face.

The committee then issues a recommendation to the National Delegate Assembly which proceeds to vote either for or against the recommendation. If the vote is for the recommendation, it is sent the National FFA Board of Directors for implementation. That is the delegate process in a nutshell.

In Idaho, we have five delegate positions. This is rather small in relation to California's 56 but definitely more than Maine's one.

All issues went fairly smoothly and were adopted without debate until the issue of realignment came about. Realignment adjusts the member's associations of each of the four regions in our country; Western, Central, Southern, and Eastern. The Eastern Region delegates were vehemently opposed to realignment while the Western Region delegates, Idaho included, moved for realignment. There proceeded an intense battle until finally at 11:30 p.m. Friday night the delegate assembly passed the issue of realignment.

Besides for the delegate work, we as state officers spent our time visiting and taking pictures with chapters from Idaho—we were excited to see so many attendees. From what was said in our conversations, most of you who attended said it was well worth the money. I almost think it wouldn't cost so much except for that wretched FFA shopping mall where I bought a few presents for my family.



Speaking of what I brought home, I know the most important thing I gained from National Convention was a renewed belief in our great organization. I was reminded of why we belong to the FFA when I heard 51,000 other FFA members recite in the opening ceremonies, "To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and to develop those qualities of leadership which an FFA member should possess." It is my hope in my officer year that I may instill that sense of pride, hope, and excitement in each member I come in contact with.

I hope each of you take a moment and remember why you joined the FFA. Think about the experiences you have had and the amazing people that the FFA has brought you into contact with. I hope each of you will feel the same sense of excitement as I do!

See you at our chapter visits!

-John W. Meyers, State President



A Half-Minute
with Dr. Richard
Ledington, State
FFA Advisor

- Hometown: Payette, Idaho, Home of the Pirates!
- Birthday: October 8, 1956 (born on my mother's birthday – what a present!)
- Favorite ice cream: French Vanilla (or whatever is in the freezer)
- Favorite dinner(s): Prime rib, baked chicken, spaghetti, and most other organic-based forms of food
- Favorite television show(s): Evening News, World Series, Gunsmoke
- Favorite singers: Garth Brooks, Julie Andrews, Marty Robbins
- Favorite Quote: John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." For "country", substitute program, school, community, family, etc. to fit your situation.
- Most Admired Person in History: President Abraham Lincoln
- Most Memorable Moment: July 21, 1985, my wedding day. It was about 100 degrees, wearing a black tuxedo in a small country church with no air conditioning. June 3, 1991, the day we adopted our two children and brought them home.
- Things You Like Best About Your Job: The interaction with the students and teachers. No matter what new program we are implementing, or problem we are facing, the agriculture teachers and FFA members know how to work together to get 'er done.
- Were You in FFA Growing Up? Yes. I was a four-year member of the Payette FFA Chapter. I was a member of the state winning Parliamentary Procedure team, and twice placed second in the state meats contest, also enjoying the crops contest. For my SAE I raised sheep and had work experience on an apple orchard. Because parliamentary procedure

was not a national contest at that time, I was not able to attend the National FFA Convention until I was an advisor. I applied for the state FFA degree twice, but did not qualify as only the top 3% of the membership could receive the degree. It was my favorite class!

-Greatest Achievement: My family and my education.

-Hobbies and Interests: Hunting, fishing, annoying my family, jogging, home improvement, tinkering, volunteer work

-Education: Bachelor and Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Education; PhD. in Educational Administration.

-Work history: 5 years Vocational Agriculture instructor, Shoshone Jr/Sr High School; 5 years University of Idaho, Department of Agricultural & Extension Education; 4 years, Vocational Coordinator, Pocatello School District #25; 8 years, Principal, Middleton High School; 4 years Agriculture Program Manager/State FFA Advisor, Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education
Family: Wife – Kathy (married 18 years); David – 14, Katie – 13

FFA Statistics

We hope some of these may prove useful for any of you for recruitment, public relations, or studying for Degrees. All of these came from www.ffa.org. This month features Education.

Education

More than 12,000 teachers deliver an innovative, cutting-edge and integrated curriculum to students

- 92% offer agriscience; 71% offer advanced agriscience and biotechnology; 59% offer agricultural mechanics; 49% offer horticulture; 43% offer animal science; and, 24% offer environment-related
- In 2001, 59% of qualified agricultural education graduates pursued teaching as a career; over 35 agriculture programs closed due to lack of a qualified teacher and 365

agriculture teachers teach in more than one school

- 23% of teachers have five or fewer years of teaching experience

Greetings Idaho FFA Members!

I hope the year has been going well for everyone and that you are all excited about the upcoming convention. It is an important time not only for contestants but for everyone in the FFA. This month presents the opportunity to reevaluate plans and set new goals. The FFA program is designed for students and to help them learn, apply, and succeed.

Agriculture programs and the FFA go hand in hand to teach important skills and lessons. The classrooms, shops, and greenhouses are where you learn the fundamentals. It's important to build a strong foundation of knowledge because only then can you successfully apply your efforts.

Applying what you learned is exactly what the FFA is all about. SAE's and contests are an excellent place to test yourself and push yourself to your highest ability. Remember also that much of what you learn is valuable for everyday life also.

Remember this: the FFA is like great soil. Members can choose to plant themselves in it and grow to their fullest potential....or they can let weeds sprawl everywhere. This "soil" can't make you succeed but it gives members every opportunity to make use of it. Choose to cultivate your knowledge and skills.

Good luck with your endeavors and making them successful. Try to apply the idea of learning, then applying and excelling. You can do it and your advisors are more than willing to help you. Have a great FFA year!

-Christine Schmid, Retired State President

American Degree Recipients



Congratulations to those thirty-one individuals who received the highest degree for those with active membership!

Thomas Barrett, Middleton FFA
Trina Callahan, Middleton FFA
Levi Kirk Chandler, Weiser FFA
Donna Sage Clark, Firth FFA
Katie Cobler, Kuna FFA
Neil T. Durrant, Kuna FFA
Kelsey Firth, Richfield FFA
Mark Hatch, Castleford FFA
Riley Thomas Higby, Payette FFA
Brandon Hoxie, Payette FFA
Dali R. Jayo, New Plymouth FFA
Casey Johnson, Meridian FFA
Chad Dustin Johnson, New Plymouth FFA
Gregory Steven Johnson, Meridian FFA
Stephanie Kuespert, Parma FFA
Joseph E. Limbaugh, Fruitland FFA
Chad Martin, Vallivue FFA
Kristine Kay Miller, Marsing FFA
Tara Diane O'Dell, Fruitland FFA
Joshua John Patton, Bliss FFA
Kristina Patton, Burley FFA
Travis Port, Troy FFA
Connie Remsberg, Minico FFA
Lisa Jean Scheihing, New Plymouth FFA
James M. Shoemaker, New Plymouth FFA
Keaton Southwick, Dietrich FFA
Steve Staley, Burley FFA
Jacob A. Stimpson, Dietrich FFA
Crystal Taggart, Nampa-Skyview FFA
Alicia Marie Ward, Snake River FFA
Matthew K. Woodington, Meridian FFA

National Chapter Awards

Gold Chapter	Advisor(s)	National Ranking	State Rank
Kuna FFA	J. Blackstock, S. Dygert & A. Touchstone	Three-Star Gold	1
Cambridge FFA	Sue Poland	Three-Star Gold	2
Castleford FFA	Roger Wells	Two-Star Gold	3
Meridian FFA	Steve Wilder, Jack Blattner & Ed Harper	Two-Star Gold	4
Midvale FFA	Jack Garrett	Two-Star Gold	5

CDE Event Results

CDE Event	Chapter	Placing	Advisor(s)
Agricultural	Shoshone	Bronze	Victor Gunter
Agricultural Mechanics	West Jefferson	Silver	Don Bird
Agricultural Sales	Genesee	Silver	J.R. Doherty
Agronomy	Fruitland	Gold	Troy Wright and Mike Tesnohldek
Creed Speaking	Troy	Gold (3)	Steve Braun
Dairy Cattle	Melba	Gold (9)	Ray Shirts
Dairy Foods	Meridian	Gold (2)	Steve Wilder & Jack Blattner
Dairy Handlers Activity	Snake River	Silver	Justin Patten
Environment & Natural	Cambridge	Bronze	Sue Poland
Extemporaneous Public	Rigby	Bronze	Joe Burrie & Robert Hale
Food Science & Technology	Gooding	Silver	Tom Woodland
Forestry	Fruitland	Bronze	Troy Wright and Mike Tesnohldek
Farm Business Management	Fruitland	Gold (5)	Troy Wright and Mike Tesnohldek
Floriculture	Kuna	Silver	Joe Blackstock, Shawn Dygert & Allison
Horse	Rigby	Silver	Joe Burrie & Robert Hale
Job Interview	Castleford	Silver	Roger Wells
Livestock	Kuna	Silver	Joe Blackstock, Shawn Dygert & Allison
Marketing Plan	Bear Lake	Bronze	Lee Hollingsworth
Meats Evaluation &	Meridian	Silver	Steve Wilder & Jack Blattner
Nursery & Landscape	Payette	Bronze	Richard Dozier and Nathan Lowe
Parliamentary Procedure	Kuna	Gold	Joe Blackstock, Shawn Dygert & Allison
Poultry Evaluation	Fruitland	Bronze	Troy Wright and Mike Tesnohldek
Prepared Public Speaking	New Plymouth	Bronze	Kevin Barker

- *Agricultural Science and Technology*
Monthly Newsletter, November 2003 Edition

State Soils

The 33rd Annual Idaho State FFA and 4-H Land & Soil Event, held on October 20, 2003, is hosted each year by West Cassia and East Cassia Soil and Water Conservation Districts. High school age youth in FFA and 4-H programs learn to “evaluate soil” and gain practical knowledge of the soil resource.

Measuring Depth



They learn to look deeper than the plow layer to make determinations about the soil. This program teaches individuals to recognize soil factors and to evaluate soil characteristics. This will allow the individual to make wise decisions in managing and using the soil or the land. The students study, practice and compete with the knowledge they gain. This program teaches management, understanding, and an appreciation of the soil which will bring about informed decisions that will affect the future for all of us.

There are 4 Regional Field Days held throughout the state of Idaho. These Field Days involve approximately 450 youth and 50 advisors each year. Winning FFA and 4-H teams from these regional contests advance to the State Contest.

Approximately ninety youth compete at the State Event for the opportunity to advance to the International Land & Soil Evaluation Event held in Oklahoma City each year.

Eighteen FFA teams and the Latah 4-H team placed at regional events advancing to the state level. The 2003 FFA teams competing were: Preston, West Jefferson, Rigby, Melba, Kuna, Troy, Weiser, Genesee, Burley, Emmett, Jerome, Aberdeen, Declo, Gooding, Highland, Marsh Valley, Twin Falls, and Bliss FFA Teams.

Troy FFA took top honors placing 1st in this year's 2003 State Event with 3 of their team members placing in the top 5 individual awards. Melba FFA placed 2nd, Rigby FFA 3rd, Preston FFA 4th, and Kuna FFA placed 5th.



Troy FFA Soils Team

The top 5 FFA and 4-H teams at the state contest are eligible to attend the international event with the top 2 receiving scholarships. Teams placing 6th through 10th place were Gooding FFA, Burley FFA, Bliss FFA, Genesee FFA, and Jerome FFA.

Top individual awards went to:

- 1st place – Russell Dygert
323 points – Melba FFA
- 2nd place – Holly Sullins
314 points – Troy FFA
- 3rd place – Tracy Schwartz
313 points – Troy FFA
- 4th place – Brooke Hoskins
311 points – Troy FFA
- 5th place – Lani Stark
311 points – Troy FFA

Statewide Sponsors

J.R. Simplot Co.	Women's Auxillary
IDEA Ass. Of Idaho	U of I Extension
34 Conservation Districts in Idaho	
Natural Resources Conservation Service	
Farwest Agribusiness Association	
Idaho Land Judging Endowment	
Farm Credit Services-Idaho Branches	

State Soils (continued)

Local Business Contributors

Adams Petroleum	George K's Restaurant
McCain Food Service	AgriSource, Inc.
Rain For Rent	Butte Irrigation
United Electric Co-Op	West Farm Foods
Farmer's Corner	Western Seeds
Stokes Food Center	Speedcraft Awards
Cassia County School District	
D.L. Evans Bank of Albion	
Raft River Electric CO-OP	

*-Article complement of East & West Cassia Soil
& Water Conservation District*

A big thanks to all of the supporters, Ag Advisors, Conservation Districts, and Dr. Maynard Fosberg for making State Soils such a huge success.

Quote of the Month

"Let's get 'er done!"

-Tim Hammerich, Past National FFA President when talking to the National Delegates



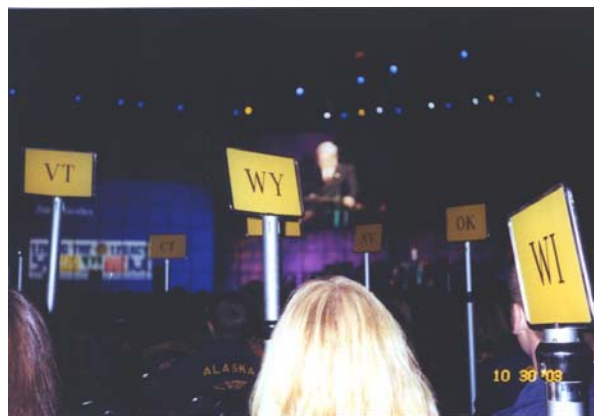
Scenes from National Convention



Grooving with NASCAR



Castleford FFA



From the Delegates Eyes